

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claims 1-2, 4 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishiguro et al.; and Claims 5-7 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite, it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended to delete any mention of the phase “the line” referred to by the Examiner. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended so as to indicate that the second conduit is inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis of the universal cable, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application. It is therefore believed that the claims now fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. However, should the Examiner determine that any additional amendments to the claims are necessary, the Examiner is invited to suggest the same in the next Office Action or to suggest an Examiner’s amendment.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishiguro et al. it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended to claim a fluid supply adaptor having an axially extending fluid supply passage, a tip end thereof being opened toward the first connection port. Support for this limitation is believed to be found at page 14, lines 6 through page 15, line 4 and the disclosure shown in Figure 2. More particularly, as shown therein, the fluid supply adaptor 20 has an axially extending fluid supply passage, a tip end thereof being opened toward the first connection port 13.

Applicant notes that Ishiguro et al. discloses a suction valve for use in an endoscope. A cylinder body 81 of Ishiguro et al. is formed as a valve casing of the suction valve and is slidably inserted into a piston 51 as a valve body. Two channels are connected with the cylinder body 81, one of which is a downstream channel 83 communicated to a suction source, and the other being an upstream channel 82 opened at a distal end of a insertion portion 4. Further, passage 59-61 is provided in the piston 51 so that the downstream channel 83 can be selectively communicated to atmosphere by the sliding movement of the piston 51 along with the inner surface of the cylinder body 81. Shown in Fig. 1 of Ishiguro et al. is the position of the piston 51 wherein the downstream channel 83 is opened to atmosphere and disconnected out of the upstream channel 82. The position shown in Fig. 23 of the piston 51 shows a changed position thereof by a pressing downward a cap 40 of the piston 51, whereby the downstream channel 83 is cut off from atmosphere and is brought into communication with the upstream channel 82.

Applicant further notes that, while the Examiner has indicated that a plug member 40, 51 is fitted into an outer open end of the receptacle bore of the mouthpiece in place of the fluid supply adaptor, Ishiguro et al. only discloses a cap 40 which is mounted onto a piston 51 as illustrated in Figure 1 thereof. In view of the solid body portion of the piston assembly 38 having piston 51, it is clear that such does not teach a fluid supply adaptor having an axially extending fluid supply passage, a tip end thereof being opened towards a first connection port, as presently claimed.

Applicant further notes that, according to the present invention, the axially extended fluid supply passage 23 is formed as part of the fluid supply adaptor. To the contrary, the piston 51 of Ishiguro et al. only teaches a vertical channel 59 and an orthogonal channel 61. The vertical channel 59 axially extends to a point halfway from the lower surface of the piston and the orthogonal channel 61 comprises two or more transversely bored passages

extending from the vertical channel 59 to the outer periphery of the piston 51. It is therefore submitted that the channels 59-61 clearly do not teach or disclose a fluid supply passage for feeding a fluid to a first fluid conduit in the manner presently claimed in Claim 1.

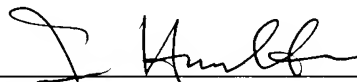
Accordingly, Applicant submits that the fluid supply conduit system of the present invention as presently claimed in Claim 1 differs in terms of structure and functioning as compared with the structure shown in Ishiguro et al. It is therefore submitted that Claim 1 patentable defines over such reference as well as the remaining references of record. Claims 2, 4 and 8 are dependent from Claim 1 and it is therefore submitted that such dependent claims also merit indication of allowability.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5-7 is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated. In view of the dependency of these claims either directly or indirectly from Claim 1, it is submitted that such claims also merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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